

REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendments, claims 3-5, 8, and 9 will be pending.

Pursuant to the Decision on Appeal mailed 5/28/2009, the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences affirmed the previous rejection against previous independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2, 6, and 7, but reversed all rejections against previous claims 3-5, 8, and 9 dependent thereon. Pursuant to the Office communication of 9/11/2009, Applicants were given one month to amend the claims to present the allowable dependent claims 3-5, 8, and 9 in independent form in accordance with MPEP § 1214.06.

Accordingly, claims 1-2, 6, and 7 have been canceled and claims 3, 8, and 9 have been amended herein. Per the present amendments, claims 3, 8, and 9 have been rewritten in independent form and, as such, no new matter has been added.

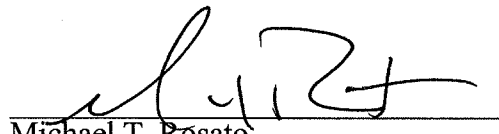
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _____

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